

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT PREPARATORY MEETING

1. THE FRANCOPHONE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP THE PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING MAY 22-23, BEGAN ITS WORK WITHOUT GREAT FANFARE THIS MORNING, MAY 12. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED AT THE FIRST SESSION (SOME BY THEIR RESIDENT AMBASSADORS) : BENIN, BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHAD, CONGO, DJIBOUTI, GABON, GUINEA BISAU, IVORY COAST, MALI, MAURITIUS, MAURITANIA, NIGER, RWANDA, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SENEGAL, SEYCHELLES, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA AND ZAIRE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD'S OPENING SPEECH BEGAN WITH NON-SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR FRANCE'S ACTIVIST AFRICAN POLICY. HE SAID, "FRANCE CANNOT RESIGN ITSELF TO INACTIVITY EACH TIME ONE OF ITS AFRICAN FRIENDS FINDS ITSELF THE OBJECT OF A FOREIGN THREAT OR AGGRESSION....MORE THAN EVER FRANCE IS CONVINCED THAT PEACE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR CONTINENT...BUT WHATEVER, THE CONSEQUENCES, AND THEY WILL SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT, FRANCE REMAINS DECIDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN

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CONCLUDED, TO COME TO THE AID OF THOSE WHO WHEN TESTED ASK FOR ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR SOVEREIGNTY."

3. TURNING THEN TO THE TOPIC OF THE AGENDA, DE GUIRINGAUD PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
--GENERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSION.

- FOLLOW-UP TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.
- VIEWS ON A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.
- AFRICAN VIEWS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROBLEMS.
- PROBLEMS OF AFRICA IN RELATIONS WITH THE EEC.
- PROBLEMS OF THE SAHEL.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO WRAP UP SATURDAY AFTERNOON WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE. WE SUSPECT THAT THE AGENDA FINALLY ADOPTED WILL BEAR A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO DE GUIRINGAUD'S PROPOSALS. THERE IS NOT LIKELY MUCH TO BE SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT SECURITY QUESTIONS, BUT WE EXPECT THEM TO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS.

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